

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *Polioptila caerulea caerulea*.

Two nests found. Common in the woods.

Wood Thrush *Hylocichla mustelina*.

One nest found June 7, near river, in abandoned garden.

Southern Robin *Planesticus migratorius achrusterus*.

Only one seen, near a country school house.

Bluebird *Sialia sialis sialis*.

Several seen on different occasions.

BIRD BANDING AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY CHARACTER AND DISPOSITION

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Birds and animals have as much character and disposition as people, and bird banding offers an excellent chance to study individuality in birds when they are actually in your hands where you may make a close-up examination and note their actions.

The Waukegan, Ill., Bird Banding Station has studied the action of the birds handled for the last five years and have enjoyed watching some very interesting characters in the different birds handled.

The White-throated Sparrows arrived at our station about October 4th, 1921, and kept coming until October 25th, when the last new bird was banded, and from then on only a few repeating birds were trapped. These seemed to like our restaurant and became regular boarders. Early in November we noticed that a certain five were always together in some of the traps at night. We handled them so often that it was noticeable that each had a different disposition. There was The Fighter, a female that always fought as long as it was held in the hand and when released it invariably would turn back and take one last peck at the fingers before flying. The next was The Squealer and it squealed continually throughout the entire time it was held in the hand. Then there was The Quiet One; she was just as gentle and quiet and as good a little bird as could be. Sometimes she would take a little hold of your finger but never pinch. We were sure by her actions that she would be the kindest little bird-mother that ever lived and we could not resist stroking her little head before releasing her. The Kicker

never stopped wiggling and kicking as long as we held him. The last, The Common Person, was just ordinary bird; he tried a little of all the actions of the other four.

The Fighter, The Squealer, The Quiet One, The Kicker, and The Common Person will long be remembered as the birds of distinct character that were always together and we were relieved when it turned cold on November 20th and they moved on to the Southland.

A Golden-crowned Kinglet was trapped and seemed so surprised that it just lay perfectly quiet and looked us over while we put the band on its leg, and when released it just stood up, straightened out its feathers, and then calmly looked us over for a full minute before flying to the nearest limb.

A female Downy Woodpecker trapped last year squealed all the time it was held and when trapped again this year it squealed louder and longer than before. Other Downys would fight but were quiet.

In explaining the work to people not versed in Bird Banding the general question asked is, "Are the birds frightened by being handled?" In order to answer this question in an intelligent manner we have kept a careful record of the First Flights of birds after being trapped and banded, and the observation is made by allowing the bird to become quiet in the hand, then releasing as quietly as possible and carefully judging the distance it would fly before alighting. This study brought out the fact that when the same bird was caught the second time it would fly about twice as far as the first time, but if caught the third time the flight would equal about the same as the first flight; and if caught the fourth time the flight would be less than the first, and if the bird still continued to be trapped the flight became less and less until some of the birds that were placed on the ground just hopped away while others were always just as wild as at first.

For the study of those interested in this subject we are giving the following table of First Flights recorded during the last few years.

Name	Distance	Action while Handled
Downy Woodpecker	200 feet.....	Fight and squeal
White-crowned Sparrow.....	100 feet.....	. Quiet
White-throated Sparrow.....	50 feet.....	Majority fight
Song Sparrow	100 feet.....	Generally quiet

Lincoln Sparrow	.....125 feet.....	. Quiet
Fox Sparrow	.....125 feet.....	Generally quiet
Harris' Sparrow	.....100 feet.....	Generally quiet
Tree Sparrow	.....100 feet.....	Very quiet
Field Sparrow	.....100 feet.....	. Quiet
Swamp Sparrow	.....100 feet.....	. Quiet
Savannah Sparrow	.....100 feet.....	. Quiet
House Sparrow	.....released.....	. Fighters
Junco	.....75 feet.....	. Quiet
Towhee	.....100 feet.....	Kick and squirm
Myrtle Warbler	.....100 feet.....	. Quiet
Catbird	.....100 feet.....	. Quiet
Brown Thrasher	.....75 feet.....	Fight and squeal
House Wren	.....50 feet.....	. Squirm
Nuthatch, White-breasted	.....100 feet.....	Half squeal
Brown Creeper	.....100 feet.....	. Quiet
Chickadee	.....40 feet.....	ALL FIGHT
Blue Jay	.....200 feet.....	Generally quiet
Kinglet, Golden-crowned	.....20 feet.....	Very quiet
Wood, and Hermit Thrushes	.....200 feet.....	. Quiet
Water-Thrush	.....200 feet.....	. Quiet
Grackle, Bronzed	.....100 feet.....	. Fighters
Flickers	.....100 feet.....	Generally quiet
Mourning Dove	.....Flew out of sight.....	. Quiet
Robin	.....150 feet.....	Generally quiet